

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 12126 271556Z

65

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 033022

O 271515Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9086

S E C R E T ROME 12126

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT

1. UNTIL LATE LAST WEEK, I WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT ANDREOTTI WOULD SUCCEED IN GETTING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF HIS PROPOSED GOVERNMENT AND PROGRAM WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE PCI. THIS OPTIMISM WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT EITHER THE PRI OR PSDI, OR BOTH, WOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT ANDREOTTI AND THAT THE PSI WOULD ABSTAIN. SUCH A VOTING PATTERN WOULD HAVE GIVEN ANDREOTTI A MAJORITY OVER THE OPPOSING VOTES OF THE PCI, THE RADICALS, EXTREME LEFT, AND THE MSI.

2. THE SITUATION TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE ON FRIDAY WHEN DIRECTORATE MEETINGS OF THE PRI, PSDI, AND PSI ALL CONCLUDED WITH IDENTICAL RESULTS, I.E., THAT THESE THREE PARTIES WOULD AT MOST ABSTAIN ON THE CONFIDENCE VOTE FOR ANDREOTTI'S GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT THE POSITIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST ONE OF THEM, A DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IS IMPOSSIBLE. IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANDREOTTI WOULD PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT TO THE PARLIAMENT DURING THE CURRENT WEEK, I DECIDED URGENTLY TO SEEK OUT SARAGAT AND LA MALFA FOR A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 12126 271556Z

3. SARAGAT WAS ADAMANT AND BITTER. HE SAID THAT GIVEN

THE ATTITUDES IN HIS PARTY (WHICH IS MOVING MUCH CLOSER TO THE PSI), IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO PERSUADE HIS COLLEAGUES TO VOTE POSITIVELY EVEN IF HE WANTED TO DO SO. APART FROM THIS, HE GAVE ME A LONG AND BITTER HARANGUE ON THE THEME THAT THE US HAD DESTROYED HIS PARTY THROUGH THE RUINOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT WE HAD PUBLISHED ABOUT PSDI INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CIA AND LOCKHEED. HE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO EXPLANATIONS OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (EXECUTIVE BRANCH) AND COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS.

4. IN THE ABSENCE OF LA MALFA, I SAW BIASINI (THE SECRETARY OF THE PRI) AND REVIEWED THE ENTIRE SITUATION WITH HIM. HE WAS CALM AND REASONABLE, BUT UNBENDING. HE SAID THAT THE PRI IS CONVINCED THAT IT MUST MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH THE OTHER LAY PARTIES AND NOT GET OUT AHEAD OF THEM. IT HAD GOTTEN OUT AHEAD DURING THE PAST YEAR, MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY, BUTH THE RECENT ELECTION SHOWED THAT ITS EFFORT WAS NOT APPRECIATED BY THE ELECTORATE. FURTHER, THE POLARIZATION DEMONSTRATED BY THE RECENT ELECTION CLEARLY THREATENS THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE SMALL LAY PARTIES WHICH MUST, IF THEY ARE TO SURVIVE AS A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FORCE, STICK TOGETHER. WHEN I TRIED TO PRESS THE POINT THAT, WITH ALL OF THE LAY PARTIES ABSTAINING, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT A GOVERNMENT DEPENDENT ON PCI SUPPORT OR EARLY ELECTIONS (WHICH NO ONE WANTS), HE WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO ASSURE ME THAT ANDREOTTI'S GOVERNMENT WOULD GET THROUGH THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND WOULD LAST FOR FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS, I.E., TIME ENOUGH TO GET THROUGH THE US AND GERMAN ELECTIONS AND TO GIVE THE PSI TIME TO COME TO ITS SENSES. HE WAS NOT, HOWEVER, CLEAR JUST HOW ANDREOTTI WOULD GET A FAVORABLE

VOTE. HE DID COMMENT THAT THE PCI HAS TOO MUCH TO LOSE TO LET ANDREOTTI FAIL, FROM WHICH I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT HE EXPECTS A FEW PCI ABSTENTIONS OR ABSENCES, SUFFICIENT TO GIVE ANDREOTTI A MAJORITY.

5. ANDREOTTI HIMSELF IS PESSIMISTIC AND WORRIED. THE ARITHMETIC IS PLAINLY APPARENT TO HIM AND HE SEES NO WAY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 12126 271556Z

OUT, SHORT OF NEGOTIATION WITH THE PCI WHICH HE IS DETERMINED NOT TO DO. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, HE HAS DECIDED TO PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT AND PROGRAM TO THE PARLIAMENT AND LET OTHERS PUBLICLY TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VOTING IT DOWN WHEN NO WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE IS IN SIGHT. THIS DECISION TO GO AHEAD IS EXPECTED TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE DC DIRECTORATE TODAY. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK HIS DECISION IS THE CORRECT ONE. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME12126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840105-0932
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760717/aaaaapbo.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROBLEMS IN FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, IT, (ANDREOTTI, GIULIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006